

# Snowmobile operation around snowcats

Instructor Guide

## Safety Talk Overview:

**What & Why?** Safety Talks are a method to refresh an employee’s knowledge and skills, maintain their interest in safety and illustrate the organization’s commitment to creating a healthy & safe work environment.

**Who & When?** Generally, these Safety Talk meetings are led by a supervisor, member of the JHSC, or Worker H&S Representative and should be mandatory for all crew members to attend. The content should be focused on a single topic. Safety Talks can be performed on a weekly basis or before the start of a new scope of work and should be about 15 minutes in duration.

go2HR developed this safety talk template for employers to customize and use for any topic in their organization. The Participant Handout should include information that you hope the worker will retain from the safety talk content and should be handed out during the safety talk for workers to reference later. Feel free to use it at your discretion.

**Snowmobile Operation around Snowcats Overview**

Snowcats are large machines that have limited visibility when working in dark and snowy conditions. They are machines that are slow to respond to hazards and cannot come to an immediate stop. When traveling on the mountain before and after the hours of operation, you should assume there are snowcats grooming the mountain. Being aware and prepared to handle hazards will help prevent injuries if you encounter them.

**Safety Talk Outline (using the handout below):**

- Preventative Measures

- Discussion Questions

**Additional Resources:**

- [go2HR Ski Areas](https://www.go2hr.ca/health-safety/ski-areas)

## Topic Overview:

## 

## Safety Talk Facilitator Guidance

🞏 **Introduce** the topic and why it’s important

🞏 **Discuss** the associated hazards and likely incidents

🞏 **Tour** the work zone identifying hazardous areas

🞏 **Distribute** the Participant Handout

🞏 **Use** the info above to guide the discussion

🞏 **Document** the talk using the Safety Talk Record

🞏 **Explain** what controls are used to minimize the risks

🞏 **Remind** employees about applicable PPE usage

🞏 **Emphasize** the importance of safe work procedures

🞏 **Ask questions** to generate group discussion

🞏 **Answer any questions** or concerns they might have

🞏 **Set a good example** by working safely at all time

# snowmobile operation around snowcats

Safety Talk Record

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Discussion Leader:** | **Date:** |
| **Department:** | Time: |

### Attendees (Please print your name and sign beside it. If you are a contractor, also include your company name):

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### Near miss/incidents and investigations reviewed: ☐ None this month

### Any questions or concerns from workers?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action needed:** | **Person responsible:** | **Due date:** | **Completed date:** |
|  |  |  |  |
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| --- | --- |
| **Supervisor/Manager print name & sign:** | **Date:** |

### Reviewed by:

# snowmobile operation around snowcats

Snowcats are large machines that have limited visibility when working in dark and snowy conditions. They are machines that are slow to respond to hazards and cannot come to an immediate stop. When traveling on the mountain before and after the hours of operation, you should assume there are snowcats grooming the mountain. Being aware and prepared to handle hazards will help prevent injuries if you encounter them.

**Preventative Measures**

Follow these preventative measures to ensure safety when encountering snowcats:

**Communication Protocol**

Adhere to communication policies, ensuring safety around machinery. When encountering snowcats, alert operators of your presence, if feasible. Consider using radio channels to communicate your intended route when aware of snowcats nearby.

**Give Space and Yield**

When encountering snowcats, prioritize safety by giving them a wide berth, reducing your speed, and yielding the route to them. This proactive approach minimizes the risk of accidents and ensures smooth coexistence on the slopes.

**Drive Responsibly in Varied Conditions**

Adjust your driving behavior to match environmental conditions. Recognize the decreased visibility during early morning darkness and early evening dusk compared to daytime. Enhance your visibility by using flags and sirens on your snowmobile, promoting safety for yourself and others sharing the mountain.

**Avoid Assumptions and Speeding**

Refrain from assuming that snowcat operators can easily see you due to their limited visibility. Additionally, maintain a safe speed, especially when navigating areas where snowcats may be present, reducing the likelihood of accidents and ensuring a secure mountain experience.

**Discussion Questions**

- Can you describe a specific incident or challenge you've encountered while operating machinery, such as snowcats? How did you handle it, and what lessons did you learn from the experience?

-Discuss the importance of understanding local weather patterns and conditions in your role as an operator. How do factors like snowfall rates, wind direction, and temperature fluctuations impact your operations, and how do you adjust your approach accordingly?

- How do you coordinate with colleagues and share information to optimize efficiency and enhance safety while operating machinery?

Participant Handout

### For more information on this topic or if you have questions, contact: